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Agenda item 20 (c)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the State serving as chairman in the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration by the Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine in connection with the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, adopted in Moscow on 12 April 1996 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (c).

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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ANNEX

Declaration by the Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine in connection with the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, adopted on 12 April 1996

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement of 9 September 1994 on the Social Welfare and Health Protection of Citizens Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Result of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Disasters and Accidents and of Nuclear Tests,

Recognizing that, owing to its consequences, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is a global radiological disaster,

Aware of their responsibility to the population affected by the disaster and to the participants in the elimination of its consequences,

Considering that a number of problems related to the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has remained unsolved, and their desire to make every possible effort to solve these problems,

Declare that all measures within the power of their Governments shall be taken to resettle the inhabitants from the areas of compulsory evacuation, offer assistance to those who have moved to a new residence, ensure that treatment and prophylactic centres and housing are made available to those affected by the Chernobyl disaster and other radiological accidents and disasters, continue to provide technical and financial support for coordinated scientific research on radiation medicine, agricultural radiology and the rehabilitation of contaminated territories, and strengthen cooperation with international, State, public and private organizations and funds in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and other radiological disasters.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement shall consider the possibility of allocating the necessary resources from their State budgets with a view to offering the aforementioned category of citizens privileges and compensation, and they call upon the heads of enterprises and organizations of all forms of ownership to explore opportunities for providing additional material assistance to affected citizens, including payment for their travel to and stays at sanatoriums and health resorts, medical treatment, medicines and ecologically pure foodstuffs.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement consider it expedient that the Mir Inter-State Television and Radio Company and other mass media of the States members of the Commonwealth improve their coverage of the implementation of State and inter-State programmes to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, measures to provide health care to those affected by

the accident and to members of their families, and the activities of administrative, economic and entrepreneurial structures and public organizations to ensure the social welfare of the aforementioned category of citizens.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement shall endeavour to coordinate their actions to protect the health and ensure the social welfare of citizens affected by the Chernobyl accident and other radiological disasters, including the participants in the elimination of their consequences.

For the Government of the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) H. A. BAGRATIAN

For the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. Dj. DJUMAGULOV

For the Government of the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) F. H. QULIEV

For the Government of the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) A. N. SANGHELI

For the Government of the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) M. N. CHYGIR

For the Government of the Russian Federation:

(Signed) V. S. CHERNOMYRDIN

For the Government of Georgia:

(Signed) N. M. LEKISHVILI

For the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) Ya. N. AZIMOV

For the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan:

(Signed) A. M. KAZHEGELDIN

For the Government of Ukraine:

(Signed) E. K. MARCHUK